

ABSTRACT

A trash receptacle is provided and adapted for use with disposable trash bags. The receptacle includes an elongated, substantially vertically orientated housing having a side body portion defining an interior compartment, a base portion, and an open top portion for providing access to the interior compartment. A pair of adjacent side wall elements extend from the base portion to the top portion and forms part of the side body portion. Each side wall element has first and second vertical side edges, with the first vertical side edge of each side wall element abutting the first vertical side edge of the adjacent side wall element. A plurality of hinge members secure the second vertical side edges of each side wall element to the remainder of the side body portion for outward pivotal movement relative to the interior compartment. The side elements are movable between a closed position for sealing the side body portion around the interior compartment, and an open position for providing selective side access to the interior compartment. A cover element is pivotally secured to the side body portion at the top portion for selective movement between an open position providing access to the interior compartment through the open top portion, and a closed position for sealing the open top portion and interior compartment. A linkage mechanism selectively moves the cover element between its open and closed position as well as the side elements between their open and closed positions to provide selective access to the interior compartment. Finally, an activation apparatus is provided for operating the linkage mechanism to open and close the cover element and the side elements.